

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,  
and workers in the District of Columbia*

*Friday, August 29, 2003*

## NEW SCHOOL YEAR MEANS EARLIER CURFEW FOR DC TEENS

With the new school year set to start in a few days, the Metropolitan Police Department reminds young people and their families that the District of Columbia's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on weeknights. Beginning September 1 and continuing through next June, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. During the months of July and August only, curfew hours are 12:01 am to 6 am, seven nights a week. Young people who repeatedly violate the curfew are subject to penalties that include up to 25 hours of community service. A parent or legal guardian who knowingly permits a minor to violate the law faces up to a \$500 fine, community service or both.

- ① Get more information about the new curfew hours at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=2284>
- ① Know the facts about DC's Curfew Law. Learn more on what the law says, how it's being enforced, and what alternative programs are available for young people at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtml>

## CAUTION: SCHOOL ZONE

Drivers are reminded to pay close attention to the signs in areas where school-aged children may be. Remember that, when school is in session and children are present, the speed limit is reduced to 15 MPH. Also, now that classes are starting up again, school buses will be out on the streets in DC in greater numbers than during the summer. Motorists should pay close attention to the signals on the school bus and remember to be particularly careful when children are loading and unloading from buses and cars.

If you plan on driving your children to and from school or day-care, remember to safely secure your children in the appropriate car seat. Safety experts strongly recommend that children should not be moved into regular seatbelts until they are at least four feet, nine inches (4' 9") tall, weigh about 80 pounds and are approximately eight years old. Additionally, children are reminded to cross the street only at crosswalks and to always observe and obey the instructions of crossing guards.

- ① Get more information about school bus safety at  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolbus.shtml>
- ① Basic car, school, bus and pedestrian safety tips are available on-line at  
<http://mpdc.qc.dc.gov/info/family/familyfamily.shtml>

## SCHOOL SAFETY FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

While colleges and universities are among the safest communities, no campus is immune from crime. Promoting safety on campus is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, campus and Metropolitan Police officers, and other members of the campus community. An important part of everyone's education is learning how to be alert, use common sense, and prevent unnecessary threats to the safety of themselves and others. For college-age students and parents who may be concerned about campus safety this fall, the MPDC has published a comprehensive "Campus Safety" booklet containing safety tips and other important phone numbers and other resources. These booklets may be picked up at the security office of most DC colleges and universities or by calling the Community Outreach section at 727-0783.

- ① The booklet is also available online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/other/campus.shtml>
- ① A variety of school safety resources are available on the MPDC website:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtml>

## STAY SAFE ON THE ROADS THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Those over the legal drinking age in DC are reminded that drinking and driving is illegal in the District of Columbia. Anyone with of legal drinking age with a BAC of more than .05 percent is subject to arrest; there is zero-tolerance for underage drinkers. A first DUI/DWI offence is subject to up to a \$1,000 fine, a jail term of up to 90 days and a 6-month revocation of one's license. Fines, jail terms and license revocation all increase from there with additional offenses. Adults or parents who aid minors in obtaining alcohol are subject to a fine of \$300 and a 90-day license revocation. In addition to these on-going penalties, the MPDC will be cracking down on drunk drivers over the Labor Day holiday. Sobriety checkpoints will be conducted in DC throughout the weekend.

- ① For more information on drinking and driving laws and penalties in the District of Columbia, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/duihome.shtml>

## NEWS & NOTES

**6D And American Skyline Insurance Team Up to Tackle Auto Theft, Saturday August 30.** To help residents combat the problem of auto theft in DC, the Sixth District and American Skyline Insurance Company are teaming up to host a motor vehicle anti-theft device giveaway. The event will be held on Saturday, August 30, from 11 am to 3 pm, at the Boys & Girls Club located at 4103 Benning Road, NE. Free anti-theft devices will be available to any DC resident. To be eligible, individuals must present a valid DC driver's license and motor vehicle registration.

**Drug Free Zones.** Drug free zone is in effect this weekend in portions of the Third, Fourth and Sixth Police Districts, with additional zones planned for next weekend. Details on the Anti-Loitering/Drug Free Zone law are at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/comm/drugfreezone.shtml>

**NFL Kickoff Celebration.** On Thursday, Sept. 4, from the National Mall in Washington DC, the NFL will present "NFL Kickoff Live 2003," the second-annual NFL kickoff event. This year, to honor America's Heroes, the Department of Defense will be bringing in over 25,000 troops to watch the show live onsite. Britney Spears, Aerosmith, Mary J. Blige and other music superstars will be featured in the concert. Special guest Aretha Franklin will sing the national anthem to conclude the concert and officially open the new NFL season. Get details at <http://ww2.nfl.com/kickoff>

### DATA BOX

Homicides (as of 8/29/03)

- 2003: 170
- 2002: 163
- % Change: +4.3%

Arrests (week ending 8/23/03)

- Total: 838
- Drugs: 142
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 25
- Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 16

Firearm Recoveries (as of 8/27/03)

- Total: 1,294
- August: 153

Traffic Fatalities (as of 8/27/03)

- 2003: 43
- 2002: 39
- % Change: +10.2%

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

**mpdc.dc.gov**